Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to all the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) on 31.07.2004 which has since been adopted by all the 27 PSBs.

(c) IBA has reported that it received a notice dated 23.01.2006 from the United Forum of Bank Unions (a consistent unit of 5 workmen unions) about its decision to go on nation wide strike on 9th March, 2006 in support of its demand for restoration of compassionate appointment scheme in banks.

(d) The above issue was never a matter for discussion/negotiation at the industry level. The scheme is a non-statutory one and as such, is not enforceable. It also does not form part of service conditions and cannot be claimed as a matter of right by any employee. Non of the rights of the employees is violated by the banks switching over to a scheme of monetary assistance *in lieu* of appointment on compassionate grounds and therefore, no industrial dispute can lie in the matter.

Growth rate of economy

1500. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Confederation of Indian Industry has anticipated economy growth of over 7 per cent in the fiscal 2005-06;

(b) if so, what is the actual growth of economy in the first three quarters of 2005-06, *i.e.* from 1st April to 31st December, 2005;

(c) what is the estimated economy growth predicted by Government during 2005-06; and

(d) what is the projected growth during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Confederation of Indian Industry in its "State of the Economy-January 2006" expects the Indian economy to register Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of above 8 per cent in 2005-06 at 1999-2000 prices.

(b) As per the data released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth in GDP at factor cost at 1999-2000 prices in the first three quarters of 2005-06, *i.e.,* from 1st April to 31st December, 2005 is estimated at 7.9 per cent.

(c) As per the advance estimates released by the CSO, the real GDP growth in 2005-06 is estimated at 8.1 per cent.

(d) The Government has not made any estimate of real GDP growth for 2006-07.

Disinvestment of equity in profit making PSUs

1501. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are looking at disinvesting small portion of equity in profit making Public Sector Enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to review the existing FDI policy with a view to further liberalise it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government has decided, in principle, to list large, profitable Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on domestic stock exchanges and to selectively sell small portions of equity inlisted, profitable CPSEs (other than the navratnas).

(b) The Government has recently decided to disinvest 5% out of its equity shareholding of 100 per cent in Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) and also to disinvest 15% out of its equity shareholding of 98.384% in National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. through 'Offer for Sale' in the domestic market. The disinvestment by Government in PFC would be through piggy-back on the public issue being done by PFC.

(c) and (d) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has reported that the FDI Policy, including the sectoral equity caps and associated procedures, is reviewed on a continuous basis, consistent with the overall economic policy. The policy on FDI has been recently reviewed and several rationalization/liberalisation measures have been notified *vide* Press Note No. 4 dated 10th February, 2006 (2006 Series), which is available on the website (www.dipp.nic.in) of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.